

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, OCON, DA, GL

SUBJECT: DANISH PROPOSAL ON GREENLAND SALMON FISHERY

AT 1973 MEETING OF NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES

COMMISSION (ICNAF)

1. SUMMARY. THE FIRST SESSION OF ICNAF PANEL 1-5 CONSIDERING THE DANISH PROPOSAL FOR A HIGHER SALMON QUOTA FOR GREENLAND WENT AS EXPECTED. THE DANISH DELEGATE POINTED OUT THE IMPORTANCE OF SALMON TO THE GREENLAND ECONOMY AND REQUESTED A HIGHER QUOTA WHILE, AT THE SAME TIME, REGRETTING THE OVER QUOTA CATCHES DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS. THE CANADIAN, UNITED KINGDOM, AND SPANISH DELEGATES GAVE THEIR USUAL VIEWS AND OPPOSED AN INCREASE IN THE GREENLAND QUOTA. THE UNITED STATES DELEGATE EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING FOR THE GREENLAND SITUATION BUT, AFTER REVIEWING RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND REFERRING TO THE US POSITION ON ANADROMOUS SPECIES, SAID HE COULD NOT SUPPORT AN INCREASE. THE PANEL WAS ADJOURNED TO GIVE THE DANISH DELEGATION AN OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THE REACTION HEARD AND TO DRAFT A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL. END SUMMARY.

2. MR. HESSELBERG, THE DANISH DELEGATE GAVE A CALM, STUDIED REVIEW OF THE GREENLAND SALMON FISHERY, STRESSING GREENLAND'S HIGH DEGREE OF DEPENDENCE ON FISHERIES, ESPECIALLY SALMON, AS A MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD. HE REGRETTED THE OVER QUOTA CATCH AND SAID THAT STEPS WILL BE TAKEN TO PREVENT REPETITION. HE UNCLASSIFIED

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ADDED THAT HE HOPED THE FORTHCOMING REQUEST FOR A HIGHER

QUOTA WOULD BE CONSIDERED CAREFULLY AND NOT LOOKED AT AS A MEANS TO LEGALIZE PAST ACTIVITIES.

3. THE CANADIAN DELEGATE, DR. A.W.H. NEEDLER, POINTED OUT THAT CANADA HAS DESIRED EVEN STRONGER CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC SALMON FISHERY AND HAD ONLY MOST RELUCTANTLY ACCEPTED THE EXISTING REGULATIONS. HE ALSO REVIEWED SOME ONEROUS MEASURES TAKEN BY THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TO RESTRICT CANADIAN SALMON FISHING.

4. THE UK DELEGATE, MR. J. GRAHAM, SAID HE WAS RELUCTANT TO SPEAK AGAINST THE DANISH PROPOSAL, ESPECIALLY SINCE IT HAD BEEN PRESENTED IN SUCH A CONCILIATORY WAY. HE NOTED THAT EVEN AT 1100 TONS, THE GREENLAND QUOTA WAS EQUAL TO THAT OF SUCH IMPORTANT SALMON PRODUCING AREAS AS SCOTLAND AND ENGLAND. HE SAID THAT THE SALMON PRODUCING COUNTRIES HAD BEEN UNDERSTANDING AND GENEROUS TO GREENLAND. WHILE NOTING SYMPATHY, HE SAID HE COULD NOT SUPPORT AN INCREASE.

5. MR. DAVID H. WALLACE, THE US DELEGATE REVIEWED THE US POSITION AND THE DEVELOPMENTS WHICH LED TO THE US-DANISH BILATERAL AGREEMENT OF FEBRUARY 1972 AND THE SUBSEQUENT ICNAF REGULATION. HE NOTED THAT THE GREENLAND CATCH IN 1973 AND 1972 WERE HIGHER THAN THE QUANTITY ASSIGNED. HE CALLED ATTENTION TO DEMANDS FROM CERTAIN SECTORS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR DECREASING THE QUOTA RATHER THAN FOR INCREASING IT. HE REMARKED ON THE WELL KNOWN US POSITION ON ANADROMOUS FISH SPECIES WHERE BY SUCH SPECIES BELONGED TO THE PRODUCING COUNTRY. HE SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES DESIRED TO MAINTAIN THE FULL SCOPE AND INTENT OF THE PRESENT REGULATIONS. WHILE SYMPATHYZING WITH THE DANISH POSITION AND DESIRING TO BE ACCOMMODATING, IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO ACCEDE TO THE DANISH REQUEST.

6. MR. BERMEYO, THE SPANISH DELEGATE SPOKE BRIEFLY, BASICLY ALONG THE LINES EXPRESSED BY THE US AND THE UK.

7. ICNAF CHAIRMAN, MR. ERIC GILLETTE, NOTED THAT FISHING UNCLASSIFIED

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INSIDE THE GREENLAND THREE MILE ZONE WAS NOT COVERED BY THE CONVENTION AND ADDED THAT THE COMMISSION COULD NOT MAKE ANY DECISION UNTIL DENMARK PUT FORTH A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL.

8. MR. HESSELBERG ENDED THE SESSION BY SAYING THAT HE HAD HOPED FOR A MORE POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THE DANISH INITIATIVE. HE ASKED FOR TIME TO THINK ABOUT THE REACTION

HEARD SO THAT THE DANISH DELEGATION COULD DRAFT A
SPECIFIC PROPOSAL FOR PRESENTATION LATER IN THE MEETING.

9. THE NEXT SESSION OF THE PANEL WAS SET FOR WEDNESDAY,
JUNE 12.

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